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T O  
The Right Honorable

T H E  
Knights, Citizens and Burgesſes  
of the Houſe of Commons

Aſſembled  
In PARLIAMENT.

T H E  
*Humble Petition of Edmond  
Felton, Gent.*

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L O N D O N,  
Printed in the yeere, 1641.

TO  
The Right Honourable

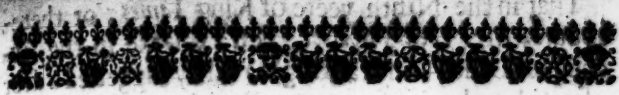
THE  
Knights, Citizens and Burgesses  
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A  
PARLIAMENT.

THE  
Honble Petition of Edmund  
Fellon, Gent.



LONDON,  
Printed in the year, 1673.



T O

The Right Honourable the Knights, Citizens and  
Burgesses of the House of Commons, now  
Assembled in Parliament.

The humble Petition of *Edmond Felton, Gent.*

*Most humbly Sheweth,*

**T**Hat your Petitioners late Father, *Thomas Felton*, Esquire was authorized under the great Seal of England, and thereby imployed by and for her late Maiestie, *Queen Elizabeth*, of famous memory, and his late Maiestie, King *James*, of blessed memory, in following the discovery, and convicting of Recusants, and for Seizure of their Lands and goods and estates to their Maiesties use, by which he caused great summes of money, to be brought into their Maiesties Coffers, to the value of 88400*l.* or more, in the execution whereof, he spent a great Estate of lands of inheritance of his own, then in *Suffolke*, and thereby growne in debt through want of his owne recompence, was enforced to leave Wife and Children in great necessitie, as by the ~~Honourable~~ Letters of the late Lord *Brooke* will appeare.

That your Petitioner since his Fathers decease, hath suffered the oppression in the following Articles for discovering Sir *Henry Spillers* deceipts to the Crown, to the value of about one hundred Thousand pounds.

A 2

That

That in the Ninth yeere of King James, or thereabouts, Mr. *Henry Spiller*, then a Clarke in the Exchequer Office (since a Knight) falsly suggested a debt of 567l. to be due from your Petitioners said Father, to the Crowne, upon which suggestion, the said Sir *Henry* procured the Petitioners said Father to be imprisoned till hee died, not without just cause of a strong presumption of an untimely death, whereas your petitioner, and his Mother in her life-time, and her children, have since received more then two thousand pounds, part of the Arrers proved to be due from your Petitioners said Father, for the foresaid service, And upon view of sundry Records, since found upon search, there is Ten thousand pounds or thereabouts still likewise due, and unpaid to your petitioners said Father for the service.

That shortly after (this being made known to some of the late Lords of the Privie Councell) Sir *Henry Spiller* sought to take away the life of one of your petitioners Wives, for a Rape supposed to be committed on one of his mens Children, of which hee was cleared in the open Court, at the Session: Shortly after, the said partie was thus naustly and falsely accused, and charged with the said capitall crime, there were other most shamefull and unchristian-like plots used to take away his testimony, by which doings, the said partie hath continued neere thirty yeers prisoner, and so remains still *at his suite*.

That the said Sir *Henry* caused the Brother of the said Wivesse to be arrested and imprisoned, for that hee relieved his Brother in prison, and thereby was undone, he being a Tradesman.

That

That Sir Henry Spiller (to prevent your petitioners questioning of him for his fraudes to his late Maieſtie, knowne to be diſcovered to the value of about one Hundred thouſand pound) preſently after the diſceale of your Petitioners Father, got all his Writings and Evidences whatſoever, concerning his Fathers proper eſtate, mortgaged in that ſervice, ſo that your petitioner, his wife & Children, have hitherto loſt their livelihood, and conſtrained therby to grow much in debt, upon hard termes, and great loſſe. And this kind of doings hath been Sir Henries uſuall praſiſe to many, as appeareth by ſeverall complaints, againſt him this Parliament.

That three letters are now remaining amongſt the Records (writ by ſome of the Late Lords of the Privie Counſell) that do teſtifie your Petitioners late Father did great good ſervice to his Prince and Country, and that his ſervice was both dangerous, painfull and chargeable, and by him moſt carefully and effectually followed, and without him hardly to be accompliſhed; neither would any undertake ſo dangerous a ſervice, ſhould he have given it over.

That your petitioner obtained ſeverall Referrences from the late King, and his now Maieſtie, but could not obtaine a hearing of him and his witneſſes, And at thoſe times your petitioner, was impriſoned by Sir Henry, and the ſaid Sir Henry Spiller, cauſed your petitioner to be arreſted in his Maieſties Court in White-hall, the ſame day he and his witneſſes were to be examined in his Maieſties right, as will appear by a ſpeciall warrant from ſome of the late Lords of the Privy Counſel, & from thence carried to the Maſſhal-

keys, and constrained to put in Bayle for Fifteene thousand pound, or had perished by that imprisonment.

That your Petitioner hath sixe times been arrested and imprisoned at Sir *H. Spillers* suit, & procurement, and this done at such times as your Petitioner sued or complained in the right of his Maiestie, and of the oppressions of his Father, and for no other cause; Sir *Henry* hoping by those imprisonments, to perish your Petitioner in prison (as he had done his late Father) and your petitioner hath by this means suffered neere sixe yeeres imprisonment.

Candlemas terme, in the 24. *Caro.* Sir *Henry Spiller* obtained of the Lord Chiefe Iustice, to send his servant to require your petitioners attendance on him at an houre, your Petitioner attended, and at his Lordships Chamber encountered with Sir *W<sup>m</sup>. Jones*, since deceased, and Sir *Henry Spiller*, and the said Sir *John Bramston*, charged your Petitioner to have scandalled Sir *Henry* by scattered papers, your petitioner iustified his papers to be true, containing the afore said fraud, and by him subscribed, and thereupon Sir *William Jones* proposed for the said Sir *Henry Spiller*, that hee might have the good behaviour against your Petitioner, and Sir *John Bramston* asked Sir *Henry*, what hee said to it, who answered, *I*: and so the Petitioner left to the Tipstaves hand.

That your petitioner desired the Tip-stave to give him leave to send for sureties, but he refused, and without other warrant, carried him to the Kings Bench Prison.

That

That not long after, your petitioner tendered suer-  
ties to the said Iudges; But in the meane time, Sir  
*John Lenthall* had contrary to Law, admitted of an  
Action, to be charged upon your petitioner in 2000.  
pound, at the said Sir *Henry Spiller's* suite upon the  
case, for taxing him with the said fraud, whereas your  
petitioner was not prisoned in law, by any Warrant  
from the said Iudge visiabie, or if he had been, yet it is  
contrary to law, that a prisoner by command should  
be charged with Actions, and the action being for  
words, bayle was not requirable by law, neverthelesse,  
bayle was tendered and refused, and shortly after, the  
Clerke of the papers of the Kings Bench, gave your  
Petitioner notice by writing, that at the next sitting of  
the Lord Chiefe Iustice *Bramston* at Guild-hall, the  
said Sir *Henry* would goe to a triall with your petiti-  
oner; and in the meane time, Sir *Henry Spiller* got a  
verdict of 2000*l.* against your petitioner at Westmin-  
ster (for which hee is yet prisoner to the Floor) and by  
a Iury of his owne choosing.

The cause your Petitioner did scatter papers against  
the said Sir *Henry* was, for that after speciall Refer-  
rences from his Maiestie, your petitioner and his wit-  
nesses should be examined concerning Sir *Henries*  
fraudes to his Maiestie, and oppressions to your Peti-  
oners Father, and himselfe, but could not be obtained,  
nor his iust complaints move some of His Maiesties  
great Officers to assist your Petitioner therein.

That your petitioner, as he was there writing in his  
Chamber, at the Kings Bench prison, was assaulted  
with six or seven of the Marshalls servants, who did  
vio-



violently, and barbarously beat, and sore bruis<sup>e</sup> him,  
and put him in feare and danger of his life, and most  
cruelly took, and haled him out of the Master-side, to  
the common Gaole of the said Prison.

That your Petitioner (was shortly after) most un-  
ruly and disgracefully removed, and sent to the most  
infamous Gaole of New-gate, and thither carried  
bound, as a Fellow, on purpose thereby to be maimed  
or made away, and after his remove from thence to the  
Master-side of the said Prison, was againe twice carri-  
ed amongst the Fellons, without any offence by the  
Petitioner given, and to the end that no friends should  
be helpfull to your Petitioner, nor hee or they be be-  
lieved in his complaint, it was given out by the Gaol<sup>er</sup> of  
New-gate, he was a Mad-man, crazed in his braines,  
and not meet to be respected or credited in any thing,  
or to that effect. And this done on purpose to disgrace  
and discourage your Petitioner, and to hinder his pro-  
ceedings against Sir *Henry Spiller*, in this cause, or on  
his Maiesties behalfe.

That shortly after this cruell usage of your Peti-  
tioner, his wife fell sick, and lay at the point of death,  
to whom your Petitioner was not suffered to goe, but  
that day shee lay ready to depart this life, to the iudge-  
ment of all that saw her, in which sicknesse her skinne  
peeled all off her, as she had been poyson'd, and in this  
time of her extremity, your petitioner was removed  
from the Master-side in New-gate, to the Common  
Gaole there, and lodged many nights in a darke Dun-  
geon Ward on the ground, where is most noysome  
seents, Long of which imprisonment, a child of your  
petitio-

*removed by y<sup>e</sup>  
the Lord  
paper finish*



petitioners perished, for that neither hee nor his wife could give it its due, and the wife of your petitioner, then miscarried, being with Child.

That there was a plot presently after your petitioners imprisonment in the Kings Bench (as upon examination will appeare) by one in favour with Sir Henry Spiller, to have made your petitioner prisoner during Sir Henries life, a strong presumption it was, a combination betwixt Sir Henry, and the said partie, who lately in the presence of others said, None but Rogues and Whores would speak against the said Sir Henry Spiller.

That a Committee this Parliament, being appointed by the Honourable House of Commons, for the examination of Sir Henries fraudes to the Crowne, and oppression to His Maiesties Subiects, your petitioner there with his witnesses (was ready) and did make good <sup>some</sup> Sir Henries fraudes to his late Maiestie, by which, and the like courses of the said Sir Henry, hath been losse to the Crowne above one Hundred thousand pound, and hee thereby hath purchased to himselfe many thousand pounds a yeere, much thereof taken in other mens names.

In Answer to so much of this, as concernes your Petitioner, Sir Hen. Spiller, at a Hearing before the Lords, produced three Letters. First, purporting an Offer of Composition made by your Petitioner, to the said Sir Henry. The second, An acknowledgement of Error in speaking words of the said Sir Henry. The third, A desire of reasonable satisfaction, with promise to desist from further prosecution.

B

To

To all which, your Petitioners Councell was not instructed to answer; But your Petitioner for answer saith,

To the first, he was disabled by Sir Henrie, in want of his writings and Estate to prosecute Law, and therefore sought; but tooke no composition.

To the second, He was restrained of Libertie at Sir Henries Suite, without means to vindicate himselfe against his power and purse; and therefore for gaining of his libertie, did acknowledge the Error of having spoken that positively, which hee had only from the relation of the partie.

To the third, He answereth, That it was done when he had sought Iustice for the King, and for himself to his priuie Councell frequently, and with more then ordinary prosecution, yet without fruit or remedie.

Your Petitioner humbly prayes your wonted Iustice in all, and expedition (suitable with the great Affaires) least it come unseasonably, he being destitute of subsistence.

*And hee shall ever pray, &c.*

**Edmond Felton.**

